

contrast, *africana* occurs on the cooler high-altitude grasslands, where it sings from a variety of perches and even on the ground.

White (1960: 9) has remarked on a specimen of *hypermetra* from Loliondo in Tanzania (2° 03' S, 35° 40' E), apparently from the same general area as *africana*, but at a lower altitude. If altitudinal segregation is found to be the rule in areas where sympatry is approached, and evidence of regular hybridisation is lacking, this would seem to argue for specific distinctness. White has pointed out that it is unusual for a low-altitude subspecies to be so much larger than adjacent highland relations; this is contrary to Bergmann's Rule, and is a further indication that we may be dealing with 2 genetically distinct forms.

Hybridisation between morphologically similar species, which normally have distinctive vocalisations, can occur if an individual male produces a mixed song (Lemaire 1977). However, occasional hybridisation under such conditions need not mean that such forms are conspecific.

Clearly more field observation is required, particularly where there is possible sympatry between *hypermetra* and *africana*, of vocalisations, the incidence of mimicry and other isolating mechanisms, especially of forms of supposed doubtful affinity, such as *gallarum*. Meanwhile, we feel that *M. africana* and *M. hypermetra* are most conveniently considered separate species.

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Records of migrants from Grand Cayman Island

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Between 23 April and 1 May 1974 Michael McNall and I studied vireos on Grand Cayman, the largest and western-most of the three Cayman Islands. In the course of our field work several noteworthy records were obtained which serve further to clarify the status of certain migratory or far ranging

birds in the western Caribbean and expand upon data in the annotated avifaunal list of Cayman Islands birds by Johnston *et al.* (1971).

CATHARTES AURA *Turkey Vulture*. One was reported as present in the northwest peninsula of the island from early Dec, moving to the east side towards the end of April. We did not see it. Johnston *et al.* threw doubt on its occurrence on Grand Cayman, mentioning that it may have been seen by English (1916).

CHLIDONIAS NIGER *Black Tern*. 10 noted at Meagre Bay Pond on 29 April. Johnston *et al.* report 4 specimens of *G. n. surinamensis* taken on Grand Cayman on 7.ix.1961 by A. Schwartz.

CHAETURA PELAGICA *Chimney Swift*. Two seen foraging above a mangrove swamp in the company of Caribbean Martins *Progne dominicensis* south of George Town in late afternoon on 28 April. Johnston *et al.* give only one record, 12 May 1965.

CERYLE ALCYON *Belted Kingfisher*. Observed daily: on 27 April, 5 were seen along a road through a mangrove swamp south of George Town. Johnston *et al.* considered it an uncommon winter visitor, previously recorded only between November and 9 April.

CATHARUS FUSCESCENS *Veery*. Two individuals (ROM 121465, ♀, skull pneumatized, granular ovary 8 × 4 mm, 30 g, heavy fat; ROM 121466, ♂, skull pneumatized, testis 2 × 2 mm, 26.3 g, light fat) were netted at the edge of a mangrove swamp 2 km south of George Town on 28 April. Only one previous record, one on 2.v.1970 (Johnston *et al.*).

BOMBYCILLA CEDRORUM *Cedar Waxwing*. Three seen feeding on small reddish fruits in a tree on 27 April. The first report for Grand Cayman; one was taken on Little Cayman on 29.iv.1888 (Johnston *et al.*).

VIREO A. ALTILOQUUS *Black-whiskered Vireo*. A ♂ (ROM 121454, skull pneumatized, left testis 5 × 3 mm, 15.4 g, light fat) netted on 26 April at the edge of a mangrove swamp 2 km south George Town is the first record of this race; 2 specimens not identified to race, are reported by Johnston *et al.*

V. a. barbatulus, which is phenotypically quite distinct from *V. a. altiloquus*, occurs in this part of the Caribbean on Little Cayman and Cayman Brac c 120 km to the east, and also on Cuba 290 km to the north. *V. magister caymanensis*, the Yucatan Vireo, which is resident on Grand Cayman, differs conspicuously in plumage characters from either of the races of *V. altiloquus* in question. It is most likely that ROM 121454 was vagrant from Jamaica, c 290 km to the southeast, where *V. a. altiloquus*, which is migratory, is a common breeding form.

DENDROICA CASTANEA *Bay-breasted Warbler*. A ♂ was seen on 27 April in company with a pair of Cuban Bullfinches *Melopyrrha nigra*. Only 2 other sight records are available: October 1956 and 2.v.1970 (Johnston *et al.*).

DENDROICA STRIATA *Blackpoll Warbler*. 5-10 seen daily in mangrove and drier woodland. A ♀ (ROM 121517, skull pneumatized, granular ovary 4 × 2 mm, 10.4 g, light fat) was netted on 29.iv.1974. Johnston *et al.* listed only 2 specimens, taken 20.ix.1889 and 18.iv.1892. It seems likely that the